



ininnawa

A N I S L A N D C A L L I N G

◦ Press Kit ◦



LOGLINE

"Ininnawa: An Island Calling" is a story of obligation and sacrifice, told through a family dedicating their lives to providing healthcare in the remote islands of Indonesia's Flores Sea.

FILM DETAILS

Title	Ininnawa: An Island Calling
Format	HD (25fps)
Sound Format	5.1 / Stereo
Production Co.	Two Islands Digital
Year of Production	2022
Genre	Documentary
Duration	73min / 52min
Language	Indonesian, Buginese, Makassarese
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SYNOPSIS

Ininnawa: An Island Calling explores the difficulties the world's largest archipelago faces in providing health care. An out of sight, out of mind approach has failed her people. It is a story of obligation and sacrifice, told through a family dedicating their lives to this pursuit in the remote islands of the Flores Sea. MIMI is a mother of two who until recently had left her first child at school in the city and together with her youngest child worked on the islands, more than 30 hours sea travel from South Sulawesi. Her husband HASRI also separates from their family to pursue his

calling and work neighbouring islands. Family reunions are rare. As veteran nurse, and Mimi's mother RABIAH begins retirement, passing the baton to her daughter, she finds herself once more on the islands in an unofficial caretaker role, while Mimi gives birth to her 3rd child.

Mimi's challenges, her fears and anxiety, unfold on screen as she begins her work as an independent remote area nurse. But for how long can Mimi stay strong and separate from her young family? And how long can Rabiah resist the call of her islands.





BACKGROUND

Rabiah, Mimi and Hasri's stories reveal issues that are important and timely to address. 15 years ago, Indonesia's government pledged to help Rabiah, and the many 1000's of people living remotely, to have better access to quality medical care. This has not transpired. And with a shortage of willing and able workers, options for nurses are proving few. This is not unique to Indonesia. Many countries that traverse great terrain with remote populations face this challenge.

Amongst the myriad of obstacles faced in Indonesia, the availability of health workers and resources continues to decrease in quality and quantity in regional and remote areas. The rapid growth of the private healthcare sector in big cities, and a lack of incentives for services in underserved and remote areas, have resulted in major health worker resource disparities. This film reveals the consequences of these challenges.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Having spent 15 years documenting Rabiah and Mimi's lives and collecting more than 100 hours of footage detailing their time at sea serving the remote communities, I have developed a close and personal relationship, extraordinary access and seen with my own eyes the consequences of a failed system. Now, with the development of Mimi's pregnancy, the onset of Covid19, Rabiah's retirement and a continued failing medical system, the personal struggles these characters face are both unique and universal.

Rabiah is now in the process of retiring. More accurately, she is being forced into retirement due to her age. When I discovered this, I picked up my camera again, as I have on and off since we first met. Rabiah was preparing to pass the baton to her daughter and hoped that two young local students she had helped through highschool would continue their interest and study nursing. Things became more complicated when Rabiah's daughter Mimi revealed her pregnancy and then days after we began filming, the world was rocked by the Covid19 pandemic. These two events brought all sorts of issues to the foreground and I knew a deeper, more complex story would unfold over the next 12 to 18 months. Like Rabiah and Mimi, I am indigenous to Sulawesi and still live on the same island as them, and so luckily, even with travel restrictions it was possible for me to stay involved in the story.

Mimi's pregnancy and the subsequent birth reveals a lack of nurses available to work the remote islands. There was literally no one (legally) able to replace her while she took

maternity leave. And while she was pregnant, local customs forbade pregnant women to assist other pregnant women with their births. A perilous situation for many women on the islands. Rabiah, a deregistered nurse, was the only option available. And so Rabiah worked, unpaid, illegally, until her daughter could return. I was feeling like the issues that Rabiah had concerned herself with and tried to bring to the attention of policy makers for more than 3 decades were being doubled down on.

My personal motivation to tell this story runs deep. I am a filmmaker. But I am also the husband of a health worker and a father living apart from his children. My wife is a doctor and works on the island of Kalimantan where she stays with our two children. 500km of sea separates us and we too must plan our family reunions carefully. When I turn my camera on Mimi and Rabiah, I am in many ways turning it on my own family and asking myself whether I too, am doing everything possible to keep my relationship with my children strong and hoping they do not resent the life choices we have made.

When I first met Rabiah, she lamented the conditions faced by the thousands of people populating her islands. She was optimistic for the future when we documented her story in my short film, "Suster Apung" (2006). The film won multiple awards and received national attention. Rabiah was invited to tell her story in the mainstream media and become part of a conversation she was longing to hold on a national level. However, 15 years later, it would seem nothing has changed. This film will be a timely call to action for my island nation.



Arfan Sabran
Director



FILM TEAM



Arfan Sabran
Director



Nick Calpakdjian
Producers



Mark Olsen
Producers



Muhammad Ishak Iskandar
Cinematographer



Ernest Hariyanto
Editor



Arlo Enemark
Composer



Juang Manyala
Composer



Yehuda Aribowo
Colorist



Alinda Rimaya
Assistant Editor



Younes Sari
Production Coordinator
(Jakarta)



Andi Fatimah Azzahra
Production Coordinator
(Makassar)



Mardiana Bungin
Production Coordinator
(Makassar)



Sofia Setyorini
Impact Producer



Pahlevi Indra C. Santosa
Sound Design



Two Islands Digital
Production Company





DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Arfan is a respected Indonesian documentary filmmaker and alumni of Indonesia's InDocs institution. Born in Makassar, he gained an academic degree in Biology before his passion in cinematography led him to the world of documentary filmmaking, and he has pursued this interest for 15 years. Arfan's debut short documentary, "Suster Apung" won Best Film at the Eagle Awards in 2006. Arfan's debut feature documentary, "The Flame" premiered at Visions du Reel in 2021

in the Latitudes section and was nominated in 2021 as Best Feature Documentary at Festival Film Indonesia. Arfan's films are known for having a strong visual aesthetic and for uncovering powerful, unique and colourful characters that audiences feel a personal connection with. Both "The Flame" and "Ininnawa: An Island Calling" share a sense that large, important and timely stories can be told through small personal accounts of inspiring protagonists.





FESTIVALS, SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

Nominated Best Indonesian Feature Documentary, Festival Film Indonesia (2022)
Excellence Award (Rough Cut Pitch), DMZ Industry (2022)

MEDIA

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Screener

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CONTACT



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